



### Board Members

Curtis Betzler

Ellen Betzler

Caroline Brown

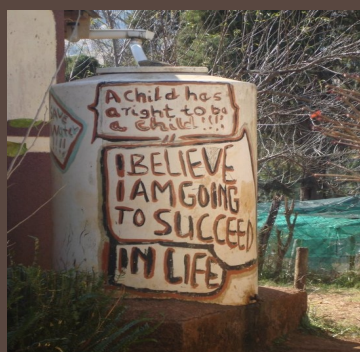
Linda Guard

James Randle

Barb Steeves

Annette Strand

Jenna Velozo



## Generation Joy Fall Newsletter

As we said last year ~ it is back to school and due to our supporters generosity alot more students will be getting an excellent start with school supplies donated by students here.

### How did things go in South Africa this summer?

Each year the trip to South Africa is a different experience, as first time travelers see it with a fresh perspective. Two board members made the trip for the first time and saw in person the work we are doing ~ the joy on the children's faces as they received their new school supplies, shoes, stuffed animals and bikes makes all the hard work very worthwhile! Two former Beaver Lake Middle School students made the journey, and because they are still students themselves and not much older than the learners we visited, their experience was one of comparisons and reflection: how different their lives would be if they hadn't been born with the opportunities that many young people take for granted! The travelers who have made the trip multiple times are able to see the improvements in the schools from one year to the next, and the success of the students who have received Baobab Scholarships ~ all made possible with your support.

Here are some of the letters of thanks that we wanted to share with our supporters. (They are as sent and not edited)

#### IXOPO STATE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL - Afeya Hajaree

I just want say how grateful we are for your generous donation of the computers and library books to our school. Your gift was truly a reply to our prayers. Our coputer room was ready and waiting and yor donation just reminded me of these wise words I read somewhere " *if you build it ,they will come* ". **Since the Department of education started building this computer room we've been asking "where are we going to get the 40 computers from?" Here in South Africa it would cost us about R200 000-00.** Our leaners only pay and annual school fees of R850-00 and with the subsidy that the Government provides computer were just something we could just dream about. In fact this year we just mangaged to purchase our first two computers 6or Admin .

***Most of the educators are not computer literate so our starting point is going to be teaching them.***

Words cannot express our gratitude for the computers, stionery, stuffed toys (were keeping them for the Grade R graduation @ the end of the year) and library books. ***Were going to put them to good use and we'll never forget the " kind hearted Americans"***



Hearted Americans

**Please thank everyone at Generation Joy. You're certainly bringing joy to many Generations of South Africans with the selfless work you do .**

As soon as Julian has set up the internet you'll be hearing much more from us . Please keep in touch, visit us when you're here again and remember that all of you are in our thoughts and prayers.

**Our heartfelt Gratitude to you all at Generation Joy.**

Yours In Education

### **Carrisbrooke –SA Rae Higgins**

**KIDS HELPING KIDS** Carisbrooke Primary School was blessed once more, when a delegation from Beaver Lake Middle School east of Seattle , Washington , U.S.A. , called Curtis Betzler, the founder of Generation Joy, whose motto is Kids Helping Kids, led the team. They arrived with Pierre Horn from Underberg, where a container full of goodies had arrived to be distributed to various institutions, to benefit the "kids" of our area. **Generation Joy is a fitting name, because joy was certainly the hallmark of the day.**

First - a tour of the school. Those who'd been before were thrilled at how the garden had grown. There was order in the gaily painted computer room where the Gr 7's were with their teacher, Mr Mbhele. **The team was surely happy to see their previous gift of computers appreciated, and used so productively. A letter from each child was given to be taken back to Beaverlake, and there was laughter as the visitors read the kids names.**

Then came the Exchanging of Gifts. Once again there was dancing from the kids, and again the guest 'girls' and 'boys' had fun joining in.

Curtis explained the purpose of Genjoy was to start a positive cycle. – Privileged kids help kids less fortunate. As the unprivileged kids learn to work with e.g. modern technology, and they are uplifted, so the world will become a better place, and the benefit will go back to the first kids.

Once again a magnificent mural (this one with drums depicting Joy) with trademark Carisbrooke handprints, and pieces of beadwork, were given to the visitors. Then boxes and boxes of gifts arrived. The biggest hits were pencils and soft toys -one for each kid. What a pleasure to see the toys lovingly cuddled!

**What generosity! What an interesting team! James Randle, a Doctoral Student at Harvard and an African American, on African soil for the first time. Barb Steeves, a Director at Microsoft overseeing 100,000 employees. Curtis and sister Ellen and Jenna Velozo teachers at BLMS, and Carson Guard and Nick Buechel ex-pupils of the school. And all so cheerful!"We've been to 30 or 40 schools and never seen such a welcome" – Barb Steeves .**

Once again Dan Shoba, the principal, organized an occasion which has done South Africa proud.

### **What's in the future with Generation Joy?**

#### **Seeking New Members for the Board of Directors!**

We already know you support the work that Generation Joy does, both here at home and in South Africa. We are looking for a few enthusiastic individuals to join our board of directors. If you're interested in sharing your time, talents and skills with us please let us know ~ we really want to hear from you! Contact Curtis Betzler at [curtis@genjoy.org](mailto:curtis@genjoy.org) or see application form for more information

We have 11 school signed up to do school supplies drives in Issaquah, Bellevue



and Seattle. So looks like the container will be filling up.

As a board we are exploring many options on how best to work on our chosen area of KwaZuluNatal. The Boabab fund is supporting students who continue to work hard and make progress in their education.

Auction is again up and running and please save the date for a celebration on the May 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 at the Pickering Barn in Issaquah. Any items or services you would like to donate will be gratefully received by Linda Guard. [ldguard@comcast.net](mailto:ldguard@comcast.net)

*The end of the year is quickly approaching... Donate to Generation Joy by December 31stand deduct your contribution on this year's tax return. Generation Joy Foundation is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As you consider participating in giving campaigns through your work or community, we encourage you to designate all or part of your gift to Generation Joy and promote the cause of "kids helping kids". Don't forget to maximize your giving by using your company's matching funds program. We thank you in advance for your generosity.*

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